GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4261
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NATIONAL PARKS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recent investigations, North-East gangs of poachers have been found involved in poaching activities in Corbett National Park;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the management system in the national parks to identify the failures in the existing system of management to check the poaching of the protected animals in the National Parks in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the security arrangements at the National Parks particularly, Corbett National Park?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b) According to the information received from Uttranchal Government, the poaching methodology used for killing of elephant in Corbett National Park was the same as is used by Lishu tribe of North-Eastern States.

(c)&(d) In the meeting of the Forest Ministers of all the States held at Coimbatore on January 29-30, 2001, following inadequacies were identified in the existing system of management and protection of wildlife in the country :

1. Large number of vacancies at the level of Forest Guards, Foresters, Rangers and Assistant Conservator of Forests.

2. Lack of expertise in the field of intelligence gathering, investigation and prosecution of offenders.

3. Lack of mobility, communication facilities and appropriate fire arms.

4. Delay in payment of compensation for loss of life and property.

5. Absence of special courts for trying wildlife offences.

6. Absence of forensic laboratories to analyze wildlife offences, and

7. Lack of veterinary facilities.

(e) The State Government of Uttranchal has been requested to

i. Fill up all sanctioned posts.

ii. Improve the communication network and mobility of the field protection staff.

iii. Establish anti-poaching camps at sensitive places, and

iv. Intensify patrolling by the staff and ensure effective monitoring of the same by the senior officers.